

I do [2] believe that in two or three Counties, there are nearly 300 thousand acres of vacant land, and if it be immaterial in what part of the lower Country the land lies, in my opinion, there is half a million: In case you will let me partake equally with yourself in the contract, I would take the trouble of entering and Surveying all the land of that description that can be found, provided the person with whom the contract subsists, will place money in my hands to pay for the entries. at the time they shall be made, pay all the expences of surveying &c, and give 4000 dollars for every 100,000 thousand acres, clear of every charge; all of which, I think you told me, he had engaged to do— On this subject, will thank you for a line by the earliest opportunity—

I have mentioned the Jamaica trip to Jacob, who has not yet determined whether he [3] he will undertake it

I am D^r Sir very respt

y^r obt

JOSIAH Co[LLINS]

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq.
Washington

Daniel Carthy to John Gray Blount

[NEW BERN, Feby. 23, 1794]

Dear Sir,

No doubt you have thought me Whimsical and trifling in relation to the treaty for Shell Castle lands.²⁸ I must own that I ought to have answered you long ago; & also to have thanked you for the map you favord me with: but in truth I have been so Sick ever since I returned, & I now have the ague & fever Constantly, which has so depressed my Spirits & weakened my nerves; that mole Hills have become Mountains, with me, to that degree, that I am afraid to think of any enterprize or scheme of business out of the common road—This is the reason, I have not been more explicit with you, & the reason why I have neglected you as well as some others of my correspondants. I must Confess, nevertheless, that the price you have asked me for the one half of the [2] the Shell Castle lands, would have astonished me at my best time of health. Surely they can not

²⁸See Daniel Carthy to John Gray Blount, October 19, 1793, in *Letters for 1793*, page 323, above.